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Message Text

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45
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 036935
O 151700Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1713

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1399

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SU
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI VISIT TO US

REF: STATE 119687

BEGIN SUMMARY. NIMEIRI EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO CALL ON HIM ON THURSDAY, JUNE 10, AT 10:30 AM CONFIRMING THAT THIS TIMING IS ACCEPTABLE. OTHER ASPECTS OF TRIP WERE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL, INCLUDING HOW TO ANNOUNCE COMING MEETING TO PRESS HERE. ON THIS AND OTHER POINTS LISTED BELOW, INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI RECEIVED ME THIS MORNING FOR RELAXED HOUR-LONG TALK ABOUT HIS PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO US. MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG WAS ALSO PRESENT IN PART.

2. I BEGAN BY INFORMING NIMEIRI THAT, IN CONNECTION HIS PROSPECTIVE PRIVATE VISIT TO US, PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE HIM IN WASHINGTON ON THRUSDAY, JUNE 10, AT 10:30 AM. NIMEIRI REACTED POSITIVELY BUT WONDERED WHETHER IT MIGHT ALSO BE NECESSARY TO HAVE SOME FORMAL MESSAGE INDICATING THAT HIS TRIP WAS IN PRINCIPLE AGREEABLE TO THE PRESIDENT. I SAID I THOUGHT THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S PLEASURE AT SEEING HIM IN WASHINGTON CLEARLY INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT WAS AGREEABLE TO VISIT ITSELF. NIMEIRI SEEMED TO ACCEPT THIS AND CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT AT THE TIME SUGGESTED.

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3. HE THEN SUMMONED MINSTATE JONAFFS DENG WHO, HE
SAID, WOULD BE HANDLING ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT, WOULD BE
TRAVELLING WITH HIM AND WITH WHOM I SHOULD KEEP IN CLOSE
TOUCH. WHILE WAITING FOR DENG TO ARRIVE,I OUTLINED BRIEFLY
FOR NIMEIRI THE VARIED TERMINOLOGY USED FOR VISITS BY CHIEFS
OF STATE. WHILE THERE WERE SPECIFIC PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS
LAID DOWN FOR BOTH STATE AND OFFICIAL VISITS, AS A PURELY PRIVATE
VISIT HIS TRIP COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO INVOLVE RITUALS OF THIS KIND.
NIMEIRI RESPONDED THAT, AS I KNEW, HE WAS VERY INFORMAL.
HE TOLD ME THAT, WHEN ASKED TO STAY AT THE PALACE DURING
HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UK, HE HAD SAID THAT HE PREFERRED
A HOTEL WHERE EVERYONE COUSD COME AND GB EASILY. HIS MAIN
PURPOSE IN VISITING US WAS TO DEVELOP NEW CONTACTS WITH
AMERICAN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. NIMEIRI
SAID HE WOULD BE GOING WITH "TWO PLANS", AN ARAB PLAN
(PRESUMABLY THAT DEVELOPED BY THE ARAB FUND) AND THE NEW
GOS SIX-YEAR PLAN. THE FORMER CALLED FOR EXPENDITURES OF
$2.2 BILLION ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BUT IT WAS NOW
NECESSARY TO FIND THE BEST FIRMS TO DO THE WORK.

4. AS TO NOMENCLATURE, NIMEIRI SAID THAT THE
PHRASE "PRIVATE VISIT" MEANT TO SUDANESE
SIMPLY THAT TRIP WOULD BE FOR A REST. SEMANTIC EXCHANGE
THEN ENSUED INVOLVING RELATIVE MERITS SUCH TERMS AS "INFORMAL
VISIT" AND "WORKING VISIT". I SAID HIS VISIT WOULD NO
DOUBT BE CHARACTERIZED IN US PRESS AS "PRIVATE
VISIT" AND SUGGESTED THAT SUDANESE THEMSELVES
SIMPLY REFER TO IT AS A "VISIT". (COMMENT. BELIEVE THIS WILL POSE
NO PROBLEM BUT IT IS OBVIOUSLY SENSITIVE POINT SINCE PRIVATE VISIT
HAS DIFFERENT CONNOTATION TO SUDANESE THAN TO US. END COMMENT).

5. AT THIS POINT DENG JOINED US FOR MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION
VISIT PLANNING. I REFERED OPIC DESIRE HOST A FUNCTION (STATE
118978) AND IT WAS AGREED LUNCHEON FROM APPROXIMATELY
NOON UNTIL THREE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 11, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.
(OPIC REP MIDDLETON, NOW HERE, IS CABLING DETAILS SEPTEL).

FROM CONVERSATION, IT APPEARS DAVID ROCKEFELLER IS GIVING
DINNER IN NEW YORK AND THAT NIMEIRI WILL BE VISITING
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TENNESSEE, NEBRASKA, TEXAS, CALIFORNIA AND KANSAS,
IF NOT OTHER STOPS. DETAILED PLANNING IS IN HANDS OF
SUDANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON WHO IS IN CONTACT WITH A
NIMEIRI "HOST" IN EACH LOCALITY. DENG SAID FNU KHUDAIR
AND FNU TAYYI AT EMBASSY WERE MEN TO CONTACT RATHER
THAN NEWLY ARRIVED CHARGE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I
TOLD NIMEIRI THAT I HOPED VISIT WOULD NOT ONLY PERMIT HIM MAKE
NEW FRIENDS FOR SUDAN IN AMERICAN BUSINESS WORLD BUT WOULD

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ALSO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN OPERATING HERE FOR MANY YEARS. NIMEIRI QUICKLY AGREED AND, AT DENG'S REQUEST, EMBASSY WILL BE PROVIDING LIST OF MAJOR AMERICAN FIRMS WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN VISIT, EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR IN REGIONAL AREAS NIMEIRI WILL VISIT.

6. DENG INDIRECTLY RAISED MATTER OF SECURITY. PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY POOHPOOHED THIS CONCERN CLAIMING: "I DON'T HAVE AN ENEMY IN THE US". I SAID THAT WE HAD HAD A GOOD RECORD IN THIS DEPARTMENT BUT I WAS NOT INFORMED REGARDING PRECISE ARRANGEMENTS.

7. IN CONCLUSION, PRESIDENT ASKED WHETHER IT COULD BE ANNOUNCED THAT I HAD EXTENDED PRESIDENT FORD'S INVITATION TO SEE HIM IN WASHINGTON. I IMMEDIATELY DEMURRED, NOTING THAT SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE CUSTOMARILY COORDINATED IN ADVANCE FOR SIMOLTANEOUS RELEASE IN BOTH CAPITALS. MOREOVER, I WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS RE WHITE HOUSE WISHES. IT WAS AGREED THAT PRESS WOULD SIMPLY BE INFORMED THAT I HAD CALLED ON NIMEIRI WITH ORAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

8. COMMENT. TONE OF ENTIRE CONVERSATION WAS MOST CORDIAL. I DO NOT BELIEVE PROTOCOL NICETIES WILL GIVE US PROBLEM IN FUTURE IF SITUATION CAN BE EXPLAINED DIRECTLY TO NIMEIRI. HOWEVER, BRIEF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE OF WELCOME TO HIM WOULD CLEARLY PUT THE FROSTING ON THE CAKE. NIMEIRI IS LOOKING FORWARD TO TRIP AND HOPES IT WILL RESULT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SIGNIFICANT NEW CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN FIRMS TO ASSIST IN HIS COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT.
ON THIS POINT, I DELIBERATELY SOUGHT (PARA 6 ABOVE) TO REMIND NIMEIRI OF AMERICAN FIRMS LONG ACTIVE HERE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING HIM. WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD MISGIVINGS RE FEARED OMISSION THEIR TOP MANAGEMENT ON
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PART LOCAL AGENTS WHO ARE CONCERNED THAT ADNAN KHASHOGGI'S INVOLVEMENT IN ARRANGING NIMEIRI'S SCHEDULE MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE ENTIRELY ALTRUISTIC.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: IN LIGHT POINTS RAISED IN ABOVE DISCUS-SION, WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT: (A) EXTENT TO WHICH SECURITY DETAIL MAY BE PROVIDED DURING A PRIVATE VISIT; AND (B) TIMING AND WORDING OF ANY JOINT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT RE MEETING BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS THAT WASHINGTON FEELS APPROPRIATE. CANNOT BE SURE NIMEIRI WILL WISH TO STAY AT BLAIR HOUSE, BUT FEEL CERTAIN HE WOULD BE GRATIFIED BY SUCH INVITATION WHENEVER WE MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND IT.
BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KHARTO01399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760189-0268
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760550/aaaabqog.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 119687
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMEIRI VISIT TO US
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SU, (NUMAYRI, JAFAR MUHAMMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006